





wartime abolitionist crusade had subsided, many Northerners began to question whether the cause of emancipation had been a good one. Popular postwar novelists glorified the antebellum South, the plantation, and the master-slave relationship. Many Northerners, too, questioned the validity of the Fourteenth Amendment. Businessmen who wanted to invest in the South wanted an end to all sectional hostility. They wanted no more talk of war, of Reconstruction, or of the plight of the black freedmen. For many reasons, then, many Americans echoed the words of war hero Ulysses S. Grant, elected president in 1868 and reelected in 1872, when he said, "Let us have peace."

#### *Postwar America pursues material progress*

Americans still had great energy, but now they turned away from social crusades and immersed themselves in a vigorous quest for material progress. Burgeoning industries were